



GURU GOBIND SINGH

THE TENTH SIKH GURU

Vol 588 |

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GURU GOBIND SINGH



IN 1675 IN A SMALL TOWN,
ARNANDPUR, ON THE FOOT-
HILLS OF THE HIMALAYAS,
A NINE-YEAR OLD BOY,
GOBIND RAI, WAS PLAY-
ING WITH HIS FRIENDS.

SUDDENLY HIS OLD UNCLE CAME
RUNNING UP.

GOBIND, COME HERE! YOUR
MOTHER IS CALLING YOU.
WE HAVE SOME BAD
NEWS FOR YOU.



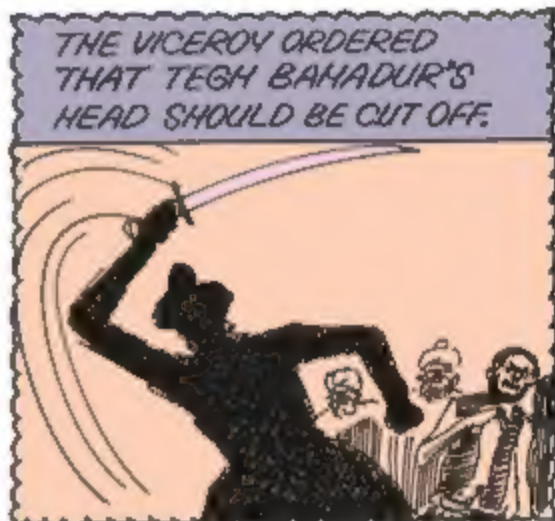
YOUR FATHER
IS DEAD.

HE DIED A
HERO'S DEATH
FOR HIS
PEOPLE.



HE WAS CAPTURED
BY THE MUGHAL
TROOPS AND BROUGHT
BEFORE EMPEROR
AURANGZEB.







GURU GOBIND'S FAME SPREAD. SOON SIKHS BEGAN COMING TO HIM WITH OFFERINGS.

LET THOSE WHO
COME TO ME BRING
GIFTS OF ARMS AND
HORSES.



I SHALL DRIVE THE TURKS
AND MUGHALS OUT OF OUR
MOTHERLAND. OUR WAR-
CRY WILL BE "SAT SRI AKAL"—
GOD IS TRUTH. WHO WILL
JOIN ME IN
THE DHARMA-
YUDDHA?



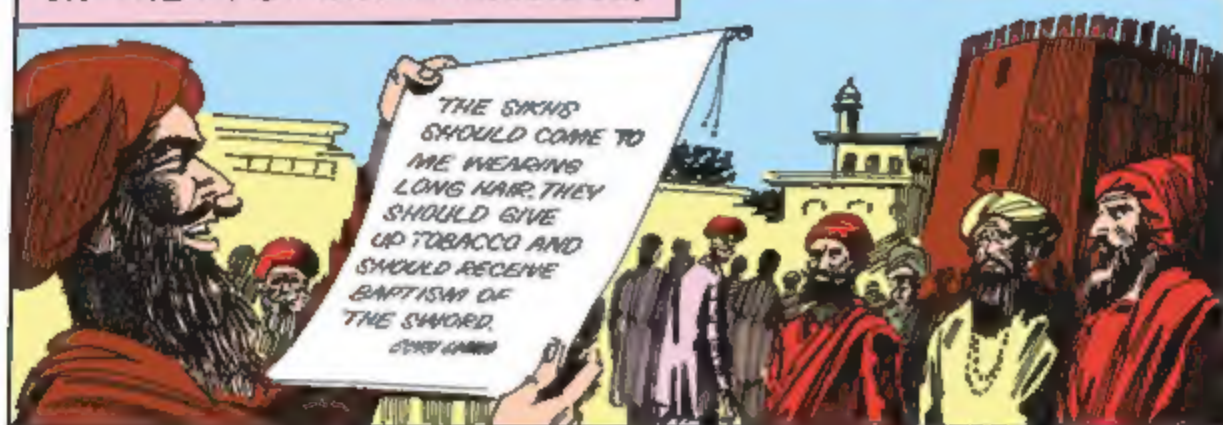
THE MUGHALS
ARE THE
MIGHTIEST
POWER IN
ASIA. HOW CAN
WE FIGHT
AGAINST
THEM?

I WILL TEACH
THE SPARROW
TO HUNT
THE HAWK.





EARLY IN 1699 GURU GOBIND ASKED HIS SIKHS TO ASSEMBLE ON THE FIRST DAY OF BAISAHHI.



ON THAT DAY A LARGE NUMBER ASSEMBLED.

I WANT ONE HUMAN HEAD



THERE WAS A STUNNED SILENCE, THEN A YOUNG MAN GOT UP.

MY HEAD IS FOR YOU, MY GURU!

THEN COME WITH ME!



WHEN GURU GOBIND REAPPEARED,
HIS SWORD WAS
STAINED RED
WITH BLOOD.

I WANT
ONE MORE
HUMAN
HEAD

MY HEAD IS
FOR YOU,
MY GURU

GURU GOBIND TOOK THE
SECOND YOUNG MAN INTO
THE TENT.

WHEN HE RE-
APPEARED HE
WAS ALONE
AND HIS SWORD
WAS FRESHLY
STAINED WITH
BLOOD.

THE SAME HAPPENED WITH THREE OTHER YOUNG MEN WHO
VOLUNTEERED THEIR LIVES FOR GURU GOBIND.

AFTER THE FIFTH MAN HAD DISAPPEARED INTO THE TENT AND GURU GOBIND HAD RE-APPEARED WITH HIS SWORD BLOOD-STAINED, HE AGAIN ENTERED THE TENT AND THEN RE-EMERGED.

THESE ARE MY BELOVED FIVE-MY PANJ PAYARE. THEIR FAITH HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW COMMUNITY- THE KHALSA OR THE PURE.



THEY ARE ALL ALIVE! BUT HOW WAS HIS SWORD DRIPPING WITH BLOOD?

HE WAS JUST TESTING US.



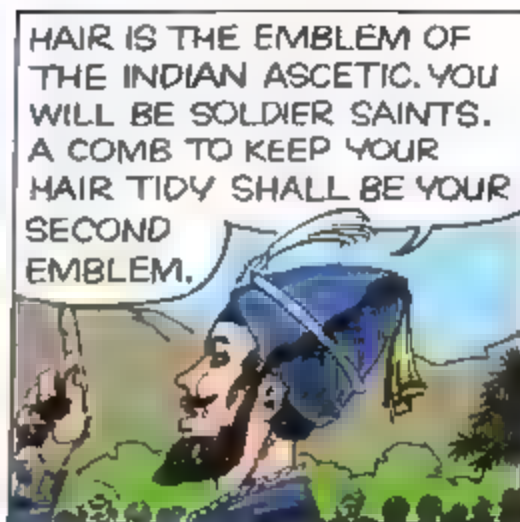
THEN GURU GOBIND ASKED FOR AN IRON VESSEL WHICH HE FILLED WITH WATER. TO THIS HE ADDED SUGAR WHICH HE STIRRED IN WITH A DOUBLE-EDGED DAGGER



THE FIVE DISCIPLES WERE GIVEN THIS AMRIT.

HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL ALL BE KNOWN AS SINGHS AND YOU WILL GROW YOUR HAIR AND BEARD.





HE HAS GIVEN FIVE
EMBLEMS ALL BEGINNING
WITH THE LETTER K—
KESH, KANGHA
KACCHA, KADA
AND KIRPAN.

AND
HE HAS
GIVEN US
ONE NAME—
WE ARE ALL
SINGHS.



AND REMEMBER
YOU ARE THE PURE—
THE KHALSA. NEVER
RAISE YOUR ARMS
AGAINST THE WEAK.
NEVER MOLEST
A WOMAN.
REGARD ALL
HUMAN BEINGS
AS YOUR
BROTHERS.



AS YOU HAVE BAPTISED
US, WE BAPTISE YOU.
YOU ARE NO LONGER
GOBIND RAI, BUT
GOBIND SINGH. THE
RULES THAT APPLY
TO US WILL
APPLY TO YOU.

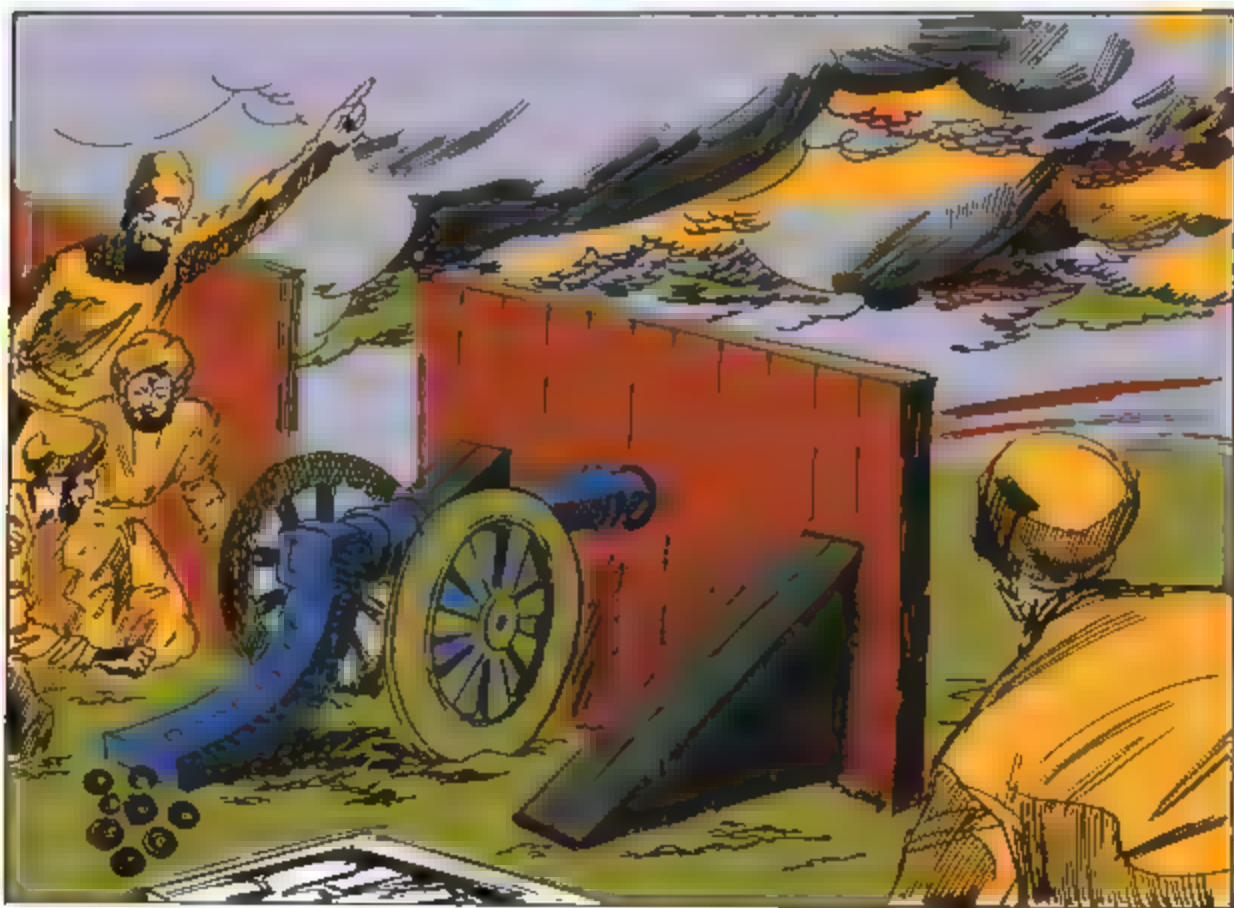
SO BE IT. THE
GURU IS OF THE
KHALSA AS MUCH
AS THE KHALSA
IS OF THE
GURU.



SOME TIME LATER, EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED WAZIR KHAN, HIS GOVERNOR IN THE PUNJAB TO DESTROY THE SIKHS AND BRING GOBIND PRISONER.

THE MUGHALS ARE SURROUNDING ANNANDPUR.

SHUT THE GATES OF THE FORT. KEEP THE ENEMY AT A DISTANCE.



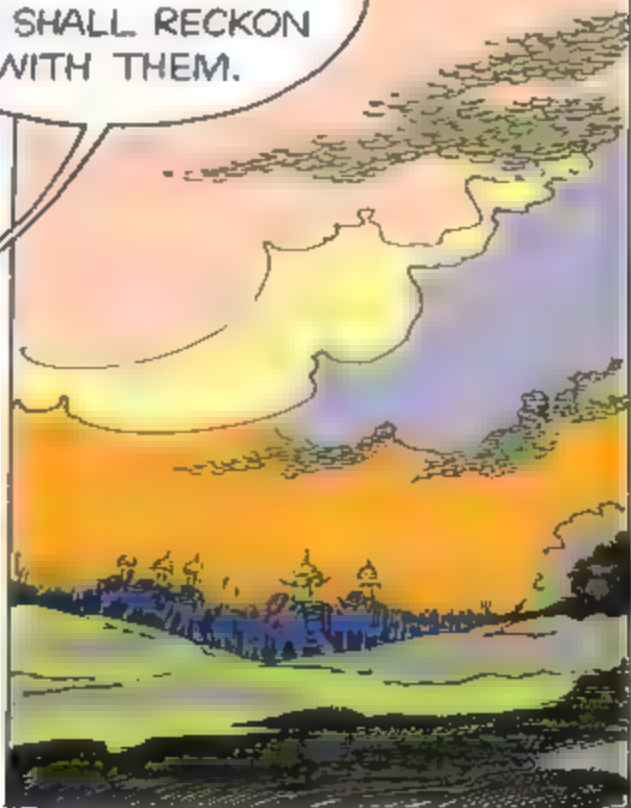
THE SIKHS WILL
NOT LET OUR MEN
GET NEAR THE
WALLS. WHAT SHALL
WE DO?

WE SHALL PRETEND TO
ATTACK ANNANDPUR FROM THE
REAR. MEANWHILE CHARGE THE
MAIN GATE WITH OUR WAR ELE-
PHANTS.



THEY ARE
COMING FROM
THE OTHER SIDE.
WHAT SHALL
WE DO?

LET THEM COME.
WE SHALL RECKON
WITH THEM.





THE GATE
WILL GIVE
WAY, THE
MUGHALS
WILL ENTER
OUR CITADEL.

THEN WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?



FOR THE GLORY
OF THE GURU
AND THE
KHALSA.



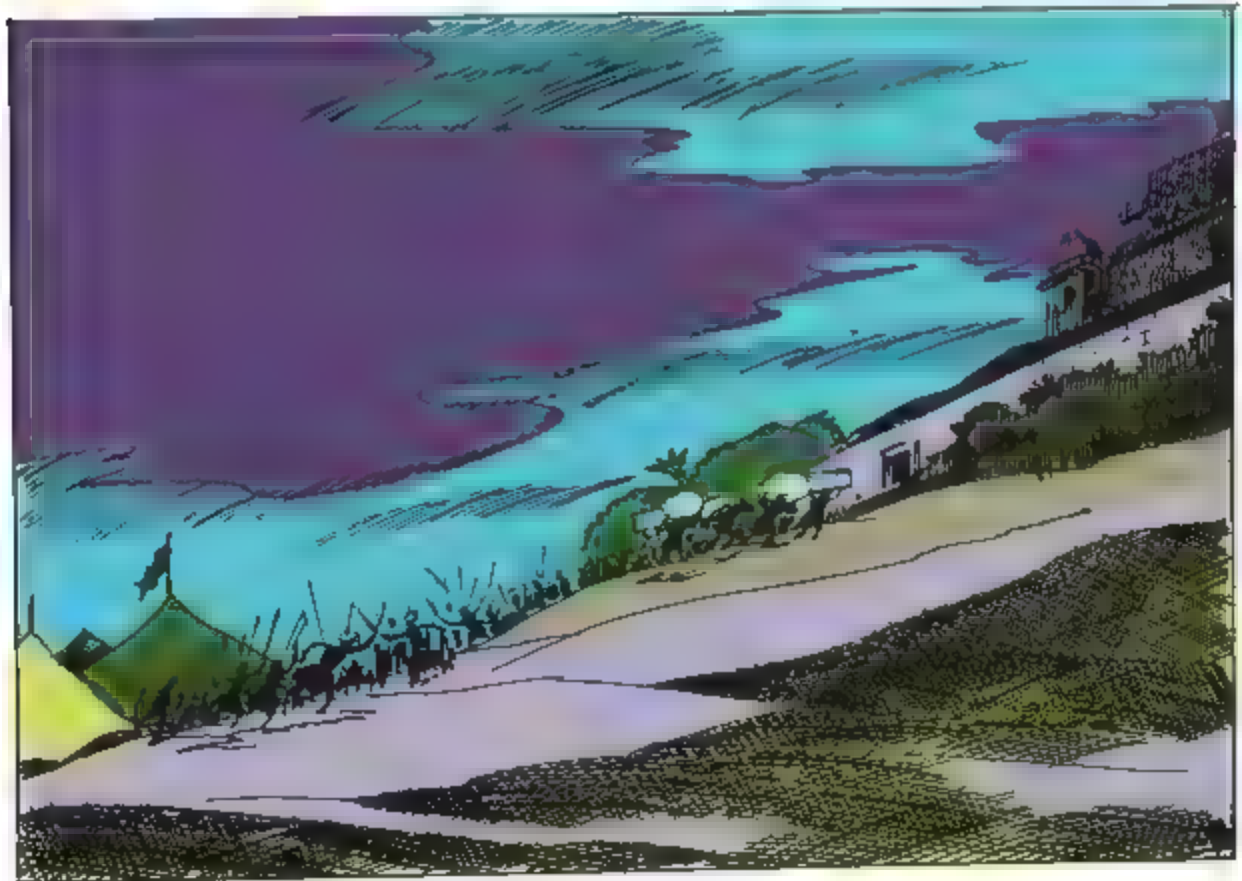
HOW CAN WE FIGHT
PEOPLE AS
BRAVE AS
THESE?

LET
US WITHDRAW
TO A SAFE
DISTANCE AND
STARVE THEM
INTO SURREN-
DERING.



SIRE, THE MUGHALS WON'T FIGHT US BUT WE HAVE FINISHED ALL OUR STOCKS OF FOOD. WE WILL DIE OF HUNGER.

HAVE FAITH! AT NIGHT WHEN THE MUGHALS SLEEP, SEND PARTIES OUT TO GET FOOD. IF YOU ARE AMBUSHED, FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH THEM.



THE SIEGE DRAGGED ON FOR SIX LONG MONTHS AND THE EMPEROR WAS FURIOUS. AT LAST ONE OF HIS ABLEST GENERALS, PAINDA KHAN MADE A DECISION.

I WILL CHALLENGE GOBIND TO FIGHT ME SINGLE-HANDED TO SETTLE THE ISSUE. SEND AN ENVOY TO HIM.



WHEN THE MUGHAL ENVOY ARRIVED—

PAINDA KHAN IS THE BEST MARKSMAN IN THE MUGHAL ARMY. DO NOT ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE

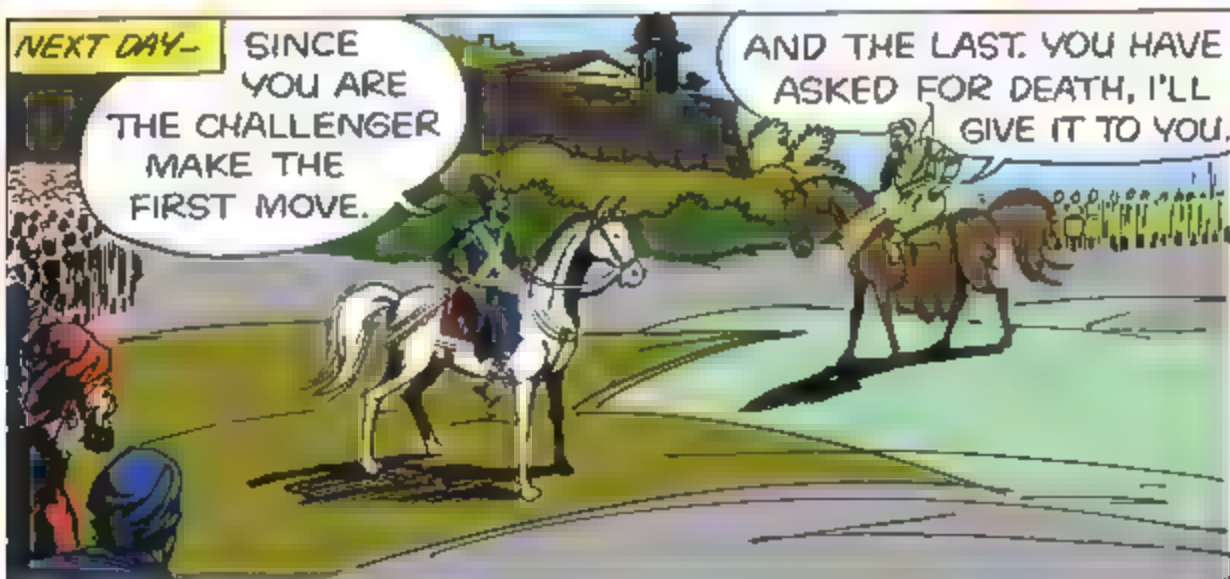
TELL PAINDA KHAN, I'LL AWAIT HIM OUTSIDE THE GATE, TOMORROW MORNING.



NEXT DAY—

SINCE YOU ARE THE CHALLENGER MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

AND THE LAST. YOU HAVE ASKED FOR DEATH, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.





THERE WAS A SHORT INTERLUDE OF PEACE. THEN EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED A FRESH ATTACK ON THE SIKHS.

HOW CAN AN UNTRAINED HANDFUL OF PEASANTS HOLD OUT AGAINST A VAST ARMY OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS?

YOUR MAJESTY, WE WILL DEFEAT THE SIKHS!

WE'LL STARVE THEM OUT!

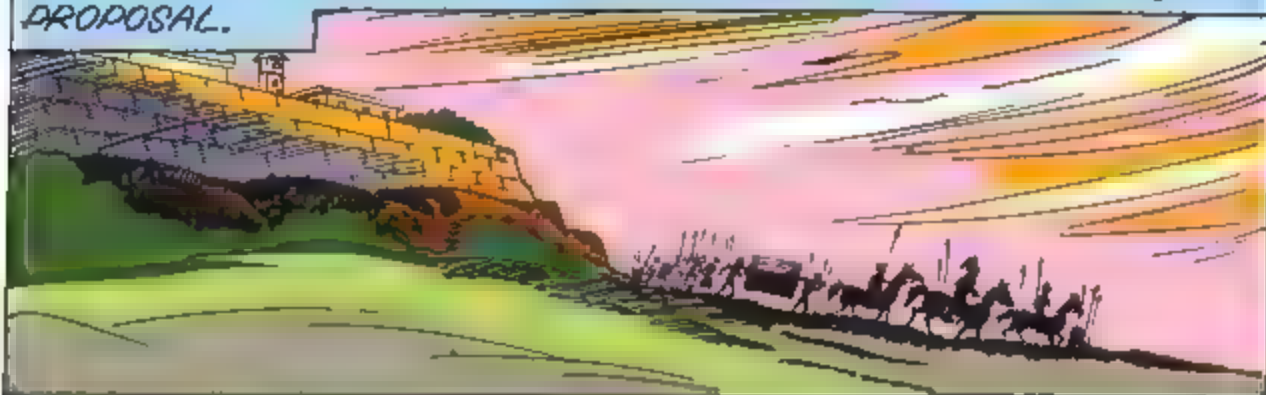
ONE DAY THE SIKHS BROUGHT A MAN NAMED KANHAIYA BEFORE GURU GOBIND SINGH.

I CAUGHT HIM GIVING THE WOUNDED ENEMIES WATER!

YOU TOLD US TO SERVE ALL THOSE IN NEED.

WELL SAID! YOU HAVE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE WORD OF THE GURUS!

AT LAST THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR DECLARED THAT IF GURU GOBIND GAVE UP ANNANDPUR FOR A WHILE, HE WOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE AND RETURN THE FORTRESS. GURU GOBIND AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL.

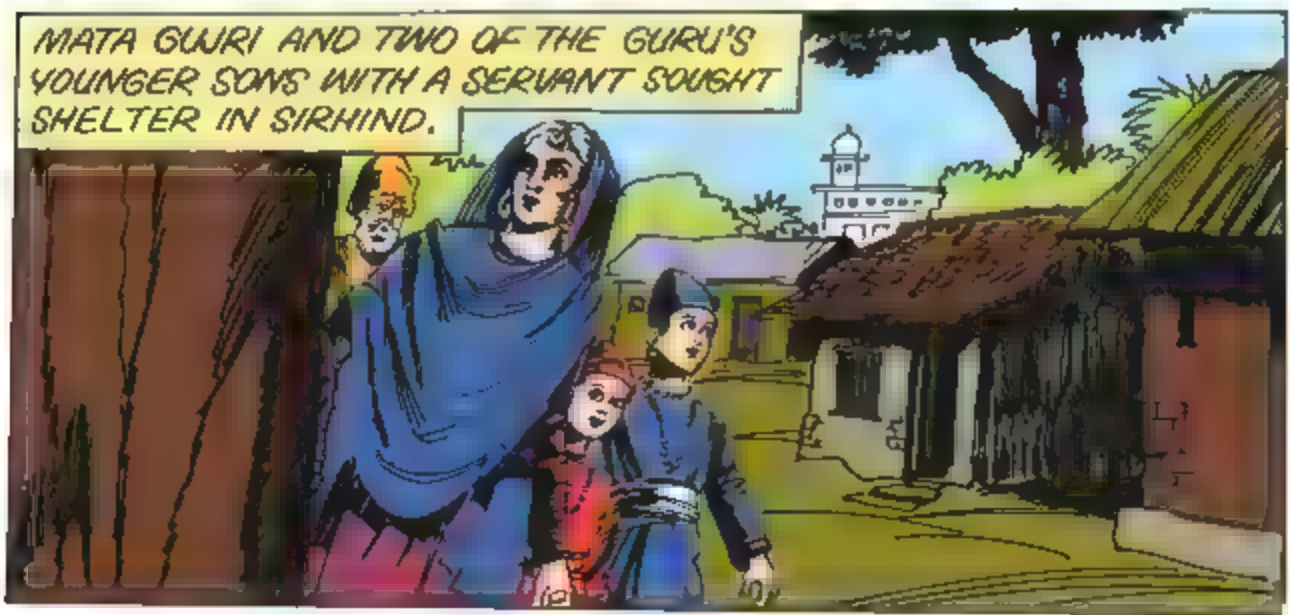


WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED, THE MUGHALS ARE ON US!

LET THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN BE TAKEN TO SAFETY. OTHERS HOLD THE REAR.



MATA GUURI AND TWO OF THE GURU'S YOUNGER SONS WITH A SERVANT SOUGHT SHELTER IN SIRHIND.



BUT THEY WERE BETRAYED, CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS AND BROUGHT TO THE COURT OF THE GOVERNOR WAZIR KHAN.



IF YOU
BECOME
MUSLIMS
YOUR
LIVES
WILL BE
SPARED.

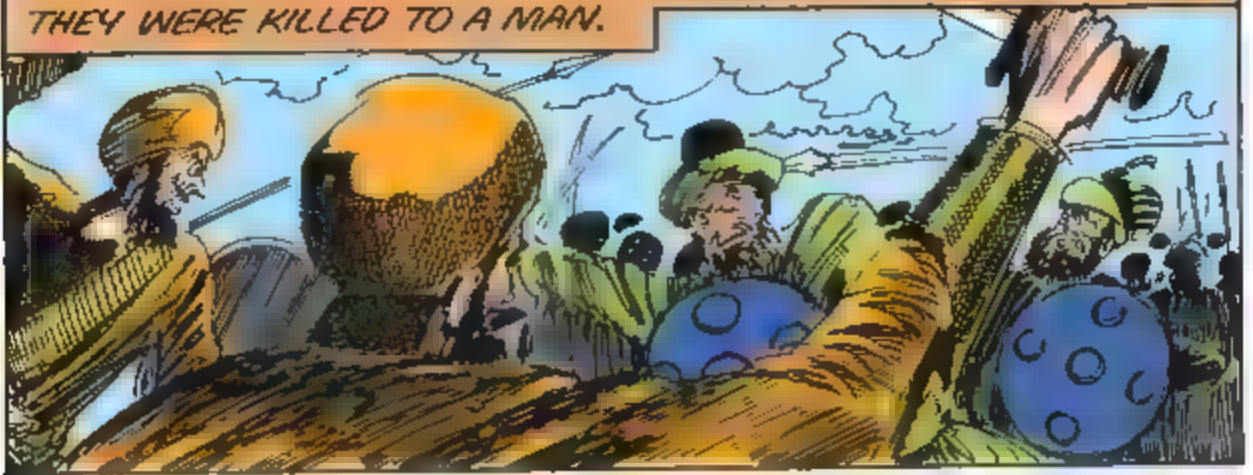
NEVER! WE HAVE
NOTHING AGAINST
ISLAM. BUT WE ARE
SIKHS AND SIKHS
WE WILL
REMAIN.



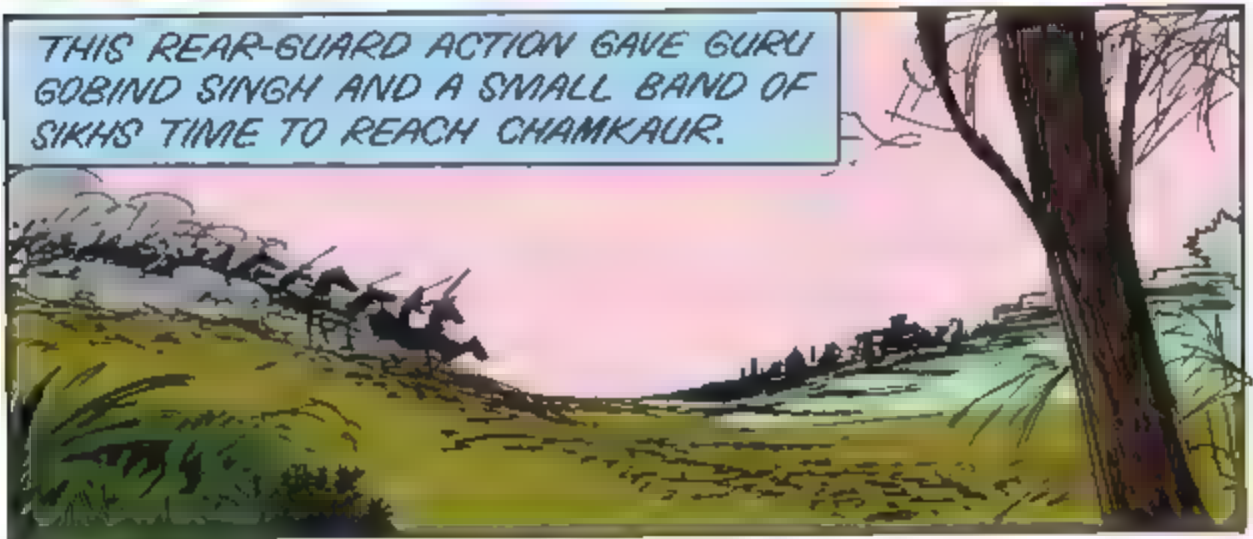
THE BOYS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH.
THEY WERE BRICKED ALIVE BETWEEN
TWO WALLS.



MEANWHILE A BAND OF SIKHS HELD THE PURSUERS TILL THEY WERE KILLED TO A MAN.



THIS REAR-GUARD ACTION GAVE GURU GOBIND SINGH AND A SMALL BAND OF SIKHS TIME TO REACH CHAMKAUR.



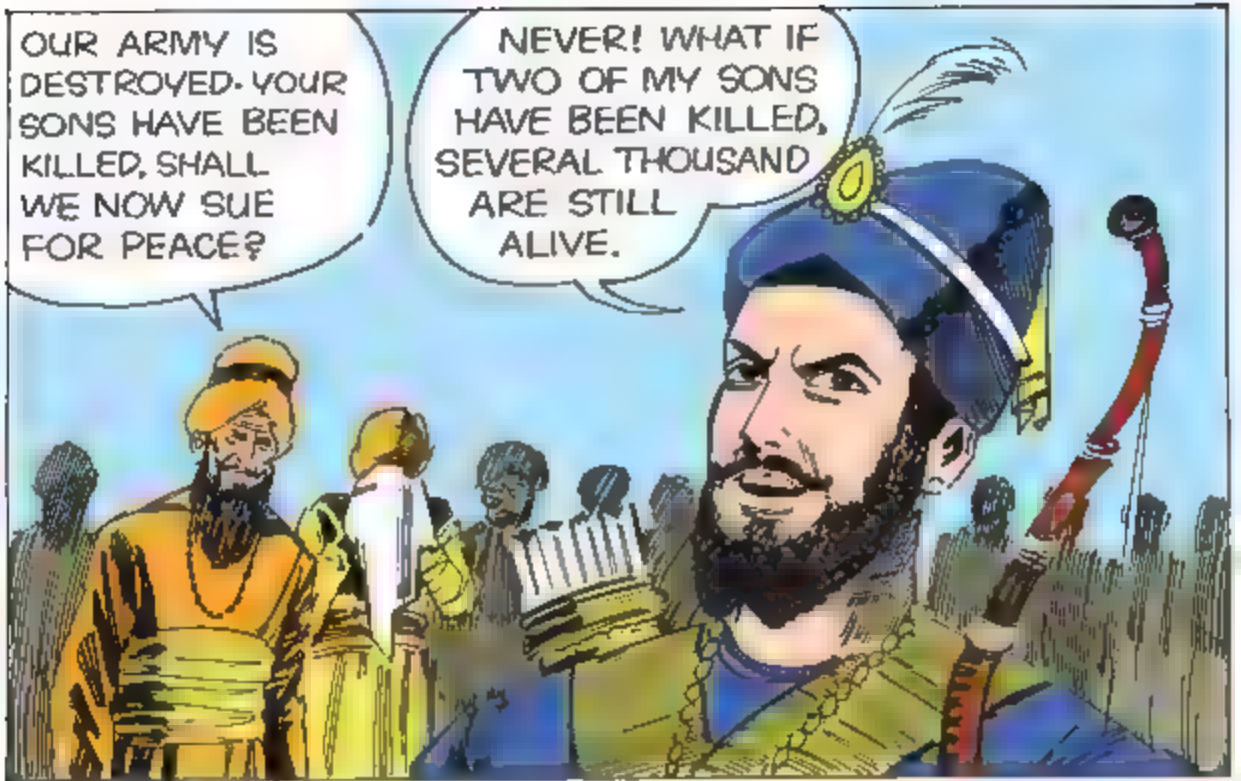
AT CHAMKAUR GURU GOBIND SINGH AND HIS BAND OF FORTY MEN BUILT A STOCKADE AND DECIDED TO FIGHT TO A FINISH.





OUR ARMY IS
DESTROYED. YOUR
SONS HAVE BEEN
KILLED, SHALL
WE NOW SUE
FOR PEACE?

NEVER! WHAT IF
TWO OF MY SONS
HAVE BEEN KILLED,
SEVERAL THOUSAND
ARE STILL
ALIVE.



MY SON RESEMBLES THE GURU.
WE WILL DRESS HIM IN THE GURU'S
CLOTHES AND FOOL THE
ENEMY—SON. WHAT A
GREAT HONOUR!



DRESSED IN GURU GOBIND'S
CLOTHES THE YOUNG SIKH...



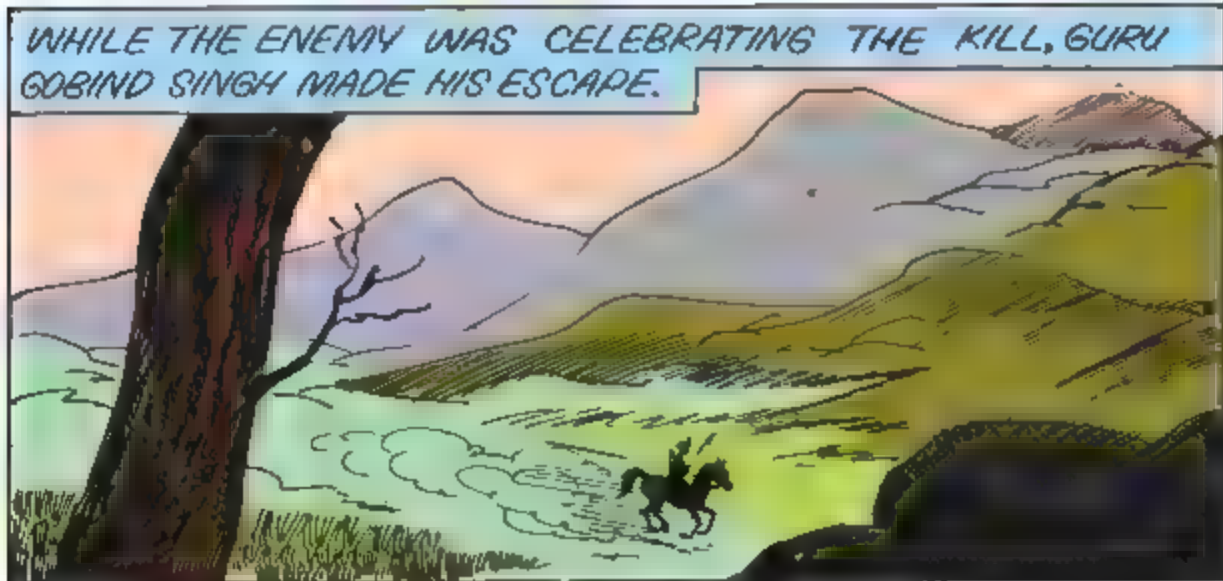
... FACED THE ENEMY.

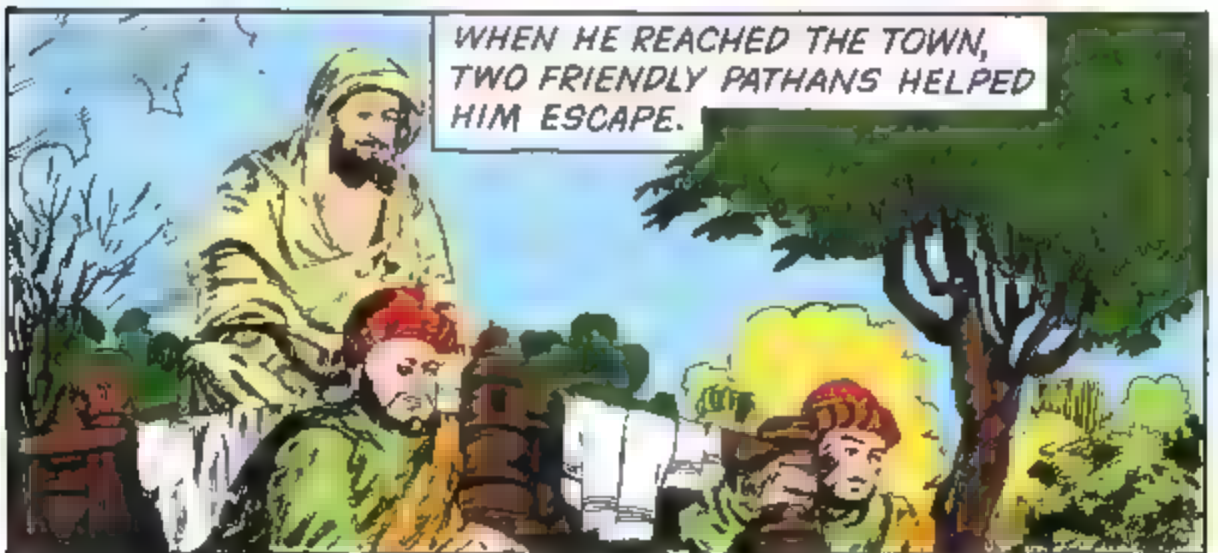


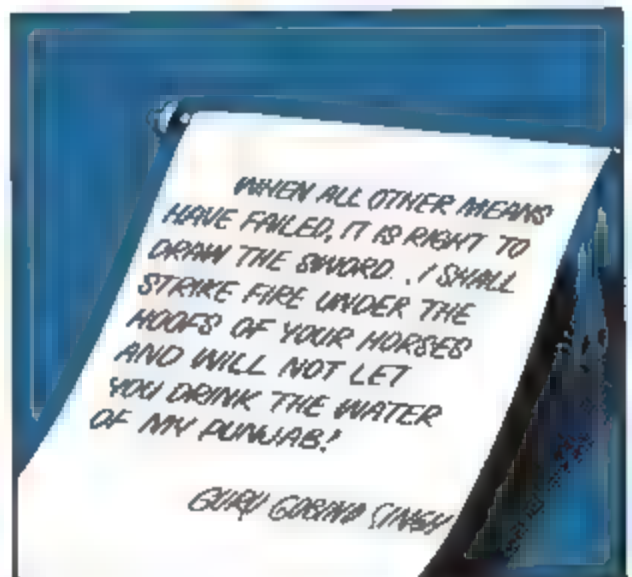
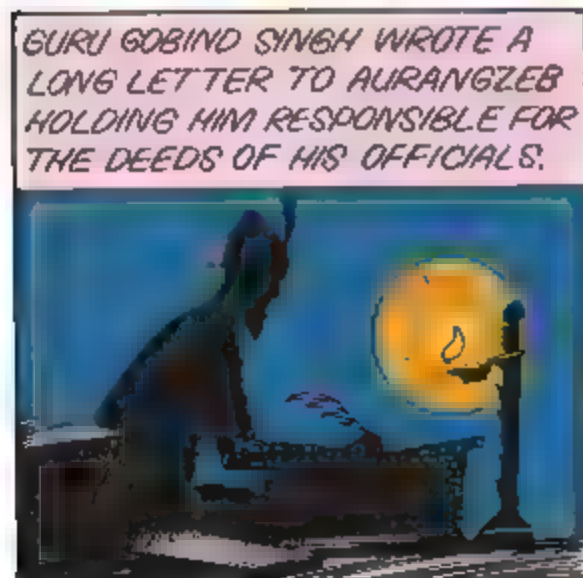
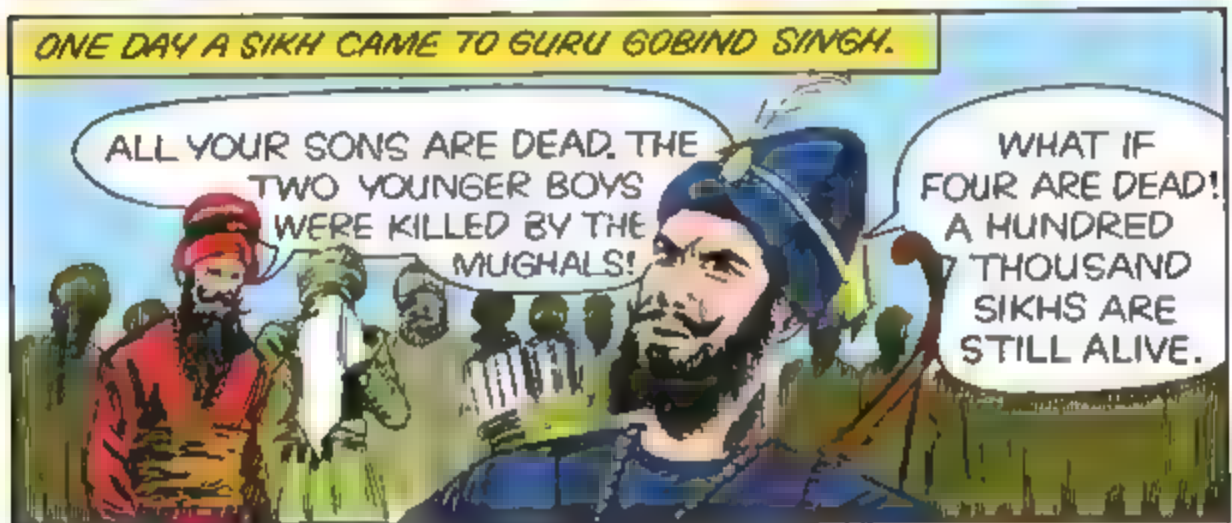
WE'VE KILLED
THEM ALL! EVEN
THE GURU OF
THE SIKHS!



WHILE THE ENEMY WAS CELEBRATING THE KILL, GURU
GOBIND SINGH MADE HIS ESCAPE.







AFTER THE DEATH OF AURANGZEB HIS SUCCESSOR BAHADUR SHAH INVITED GURU GOBIND SINGH TO VISIT HIM.

WELCOME MY FRIEND! I HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOU!

YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO KIND! I NEED NOTHING FOR MYSELF, ONLY FOR MY SIKHS!



SO THE DAYS PASSED PLEASANTLY AND GURU GOBIND SINGH ACCOMPANIED THE EMPEROR ON HIS TRAVELS. MEANWHILE WAZIR KHAN CONTINUED TO PERSECUTE THE SIKHS IN THE PUNJAB.



ONE DAY—

SO YOU ARE GURU
GOBIND! WHAT HAVE
YOU COME TO THE
GODAVARI FOR?

TO MAKE
YOU A
DISCIPLE.

I AM
YOUR BANDA,
YOUR
SLAVE.

I NAME YOU BANDA SINGH
BAHADUR. GO BACK TO
THE PUNJAB AND
AROUSE MY SIKHS
TO PUNISH THE
PERSECUTORS
OF THE SIKHS.

YOUR ORDERS
WILL BE CARRIED
OUT, MY GURU.

MONTHS PASSED.
ONE EVENING
GURU GOBIND
SINGH WAS ALONE
IN HIS TENT WHEN
TWO PATHANS
SUDDENLY
ENTERED WITH
KNIVES IN THEIR
HANDS.

WHO ARE
YOU?

THEY STABBED THE GURU,
BUT HE STRUCK ONE OF HIS
ASSAILANTS DEAD...

AARGH...

...THE OTHER WAS CHASED AND
KILLED BY HIS FOLLOWERS.

THE WOUND WAS STITCHED, BUT WHILE
GURU GOBIND SINGH WAS PRACTISING
ARCHERY ONE DAY...



...THE STITCHES
BURST.




GURU GOBIND SINGH KNEW HIS END WAS NEAR.

I AM THE LAST GURU OF
THE SIKHS. NOW THE
GRANTH* WILL GUIDE YOU
WHENEVER YOU ARE
IN DOUBT.

BUT
GURUDEV...



*THE HOLY BOOK OF THE SIKHS



DO NOT MOURN MY
DEATH! AS RAIN SUSTAINS
THE SEED WHERE
IT FALLS, SO SHALL
MY WORDS REMAIN
WITH YOU, MY
KHALSA AND BEAR
FRUIT!

*AND DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS, GURU GOBIND SINGH'S
HEALTH GREW WORSE AND ON OCTOBER 7, 1708 HE DIED.*

GURU GOBIND SINGH

'Sat Sri Akal!' Guru Gobind Singh's stirring war-cry achieved miracles. It converted a gentle, peaceable people into a fighting force that brooked no injustice. His band of Khalsas – the 'pure', who wore their hair long and were never without their breeches, their distinguishing bracelet and a handy comb and dagger – challenged the mighty Mughal armies. Guided by the teachings of their brave Guru, they have remained to this day the Singhs (or lions) of their native Punjab.

OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:

GURU NANAK



GURU TEGH BAHADUR



ADI SHANKARA



KALIDASA



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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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